

# Literally Speaking

NBPL Literacy Services 1000 Avocado, Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-717-3874 Winter 2009

A Publication of Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services



The Newport Beach Public Library will be closed between December 24 and January 1 as part of a cost-saving measure recently approved by the City Council.

The closure will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 24 and continue through Friday, January 1, 2010. No items will be due during this time, but the book drops will be open at all locations.

All library locations will re-open on Saturday, January 2 at 9 a.m. and resume regular service schedule.



**Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SCLLN Tutor/Learner Conference on February 27, 2010**

This is a great opportunity to increase your skills and network with others involved in literacy in Southern California. Watch your inbox for more details.

In our difficult economy, it has become increasingly apparent that we need to seek support outside the public sector. We are so grateful to the organizations that have responded to our needs with grants and donations. The generosity of Allergan, the Pacific Western Bank Foundation, IBM, and Conexant have enabled us to be in a position to support additional classes, fund tutor training, add to our collection of resources, and purchase a flip camera as well as continue with the classes and programs that are already in place. Thank you for partnering with us!



David Pyott (l.) of Allergan and Board Member Terry Buckley

## HOLIDAY POTLUCK A BIG SUCCESS

On Saturday, December 12th, those willing to brave the hard rains were treated to a fun time at the Literacy Holiday Potluck. Cherall greeted the gathering and then got everyone out of their seats with a mixer that had participants looking for those with an array of similar characteristics. In that entire room, there was only one person with a birthday in November! Carolyn Scheer efficiently presided over the annual meeting where the 2010 board was elected and an amendment to the bylaws was approved. Once again, the group was treated to wonderful food from around the



Cherall, Melissa, & Carolyn

world brought by our tutors, learners and volunteers. As desserts were being finished, Melissa Kelly, Support Services Director for the library, commended outgoing Advisory Board President, Carolyn Scheer, for the leadership that

she has provided over the past 4 years. Carolyn will continue to participate on the board. Sandy Beckman was also recognized for her contributions to the board, most recently as Secretary. She will be missed on the board, but will, fortunately, continue to actively tutor in the program.

Joe Brown, tutor, was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award. Joe has dedicated many hours to his learner, and now friend, Jerry.

The celebration finished with the raffle of a Wine Country gift basket, with Tom Thompson as the lucky winner.



## Farewell and Welcome

With thankfulness, we acknowledge the many valuable contributions of retiring Advisory Board Members Sandy Beckman and Marj Tussing.

We welcome and look forward to working with new board members Roman Darmer, Eve-Marie Kuntzman, and Mark Smalls.

**Y**ou don't have to burn books to destroy a culture.  
Just get people to stop reading them.  
~ Ray Bradbury ~

### New Tutors!



We warmly welcome our newest tutor training graduates: Belinda Adams, Lorie Ballman, George Crall, Melinda Erickson, Judy Grant, Frances Green, Vivien Hadley, Ann Pham, Diane Shammas, Vicky Smith, Nancy Timmons, Claudia Van Nort. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents.

### Roles and Goals

*Tutors:* In early January, you will receive a letter and blank Roles & Goals form to fill out to reflect the goals that your learner has set, is currently working on, and/or has completed between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. Your help in filling out and returning the form is greatly appreciated since your compliance has the potential to affect our state funding. Also, filling out the form helps you and your learner stay literacy-focused as you consider goals.



### **Donations are always welcome**

We are grateful for the community support that we receive from local companies, foundations, organizations, and individuals whose donations have been helping the program continue to serve the literacy needs of our community.

If you have any contacts who might be interested in supporting Literacy Services, please contact the office.

Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services  
1000 Avocado Ave.  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949.717.3874

We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

### President's Message:

December is a giving time of year. This month, many of us will be shopping for holiday presents, sending out annual cards or family letters, and attending (or hosting) holiday parties. Some families include donations to food or toy drives in their holiday preparations. Our literacy program depends on gifts of another kind, donations of money and volunteer time; and the holiday season is a good time to reflect on the art of giving.

Giving alms is an act of faith for many of the major religions of the world, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. While Jews see these gifts as righting injustice, other religions regard charitable giving as a step toward enlightenment or salvation. Americans are a generous people, and nonprofit programs like ours benefit from this generosity.

While funding is an important issue for us, the gift of volunteering is the cornerstone of our work. Volunteers make our program happen, from working directly with learners tutoring, teaching or assessing to behind-the-scenes work in the office or in program management. Learners often say how much they respect their tutors and appreciate their efforts. More importantly, many of our volunteers feel they have learned at least as much as they have taught and made important personal connections as well.

On a personal note, my term as president of the board ends on December 31, so I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last four years. It has been a privilege to serve as president, and I look forward to more personal enrichment as a literacy volunteer.

Happy holidays to all of you, and thank you for giving so generously of yourselves to the literacy program.

*Carolyn*

Did you know that you can "do good just by searching the internet and shopping online"? By using GoodSearch when you search the internet, and GoodShop when you shop online, you can benefit Literacy Services by putting "Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services" as the designated cause.

**GoodSearch**  
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

**Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!**

### Families for Literacy



Lilian, Anna, & Ryu with  
their turkeys

Learners, do you have at least one child under 5 years old? If you do, you are invited to join our monthly Families for Literacy program. We will be meeting on January 13th and February 10th to hear stories read, work on crafts, have a snack, and receive a new book for each family's home library. Please contact the literacy office if you and your child(ren) would like to attend.

Children are made readers  
on the laps of their parents.  
~ Emilie Buchwald ~

#### Learners:

Please share with us your stories, poems, recipes (along with a short note about why the recipe is special to you), or other writings that we may include in an upcoming volume of *In Our Own Words* or a future issue of "Literally Speaking", with your permission, of course.

## LITERALLY SPEAKING

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Literacy Services at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published quarterly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

### Literacy Advisory Board

Carolyn Scheer, *President*  
Nancy Thompson, *Vice President*  
Sandy Beckman, *Secretary*  
Terry Buckley, *Treasurer*  
Pim Jelinek, *Student Liaison*  
Nancy Englebrecht  
Carol Hazelwood  
Cindy Keyes  
Gail McIntosh  
David Pyrzenski  
Sandra Starr  
Amy Tan  
Marj Tussing  
Holly Wilson

## LEARNER'S CORNER

*This is the continuation of Fumiko Ito's essay "The Ultimate Experience" about her visit with her daughter, Aki, an accomplished Japanese artist, spending a year in Mexico. We apologize for leaving it out of "In Our Own Words."*

We used minibuses most of the time, which is a very common transportation for the villagers. We visited the Indian villages, San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan, in the suburbs. Photos inside the churches or of villagers are strictly forbidden.

The religion of people in San Juan Chamula is a combination of Catholic and pre-Hispanic Maya beliefs. The floor of the church was carpeted with pine needles and lined up with many candles which villagers brought. They were praying with their own incantation. It was their indigenous life and culture.

The people in Zinacantan were wearing bright colored ponchos or blouses with elaborate embroidery. If you were to step outside the village, you would be speechless at the scene, which is an overflow of peacock colors. Their clothes used to be predominantly pink, but it was changed dramatically to peacock colors in 2002. I wonder why they changed their conventional color. That is quite mysterious.

We have never had such an exciting time. I didn't feel uncomfortable with Spanish conversation, because Aki is completely accustomed to the life in Mexico and her Spanish is much better than when I met her in Buenos Aires in the spring, but she still needs to improve her Spanish skills. We are eager to visit Chiapas again. Aki and I are likely spellbound by Mayan Magic.



**Congratulations to our  
learners who met their goals of:**

- Volunteering in their child's classroom
- Passing the TOEFL and enrolling in community college
- Becoming a Certified Pharmacy Technician

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### Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

December 1, 8, 15, 22, December 2, 9, 16, 23 December 7, 14, 21 December 7, 21 December 12 December 24, 1:00 pm -January 1	Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Adult Learner Discussion Class Adult Learner Pronunciation Class Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Holiday Potluck Library Closed
January 4, 11, 25 January 4 January 5, 12, 19, 26 January 6, 13, 20, 27 January 7, 14, 21, 18 January 12 January 13 January 14, 21, 28 January 18 January 23 January 27 January 27	Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Monday Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Adult Learner Discussion Class Adult Learner Pronunciation Class Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs Advisory Board Meeting Families for Literacy Program Adult Learner Conversation Class Library Closed Advisory Board Retreat Tutor Connection Learner Orientation
February 1, 8, 22 February 1 February 2, 9, 16, 23 February 3, 10, 17, 24 February 3 February 4, 11, 18, 25 February 4, 11, 25 February 10 February 15 February 17, 24	Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. Monday Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.	Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Adult Learner Discussion Class Adult Learner Pronunciation Class Tutor Orientation Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs Adult Learner Conversation Class Families For Literacy Program Library Closed Tutor Training

**Note:** All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted. For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov)